

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi-window display apparatus for combining windows corresponding to a plurality of input image data to present a multi-window display thereof,

5 comprising:

identifying means for identifying a character information area in one window of the windows;

contour area extracting means for extracting a contour area of said identified character information area; and
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display changing means for changing a display mode of the character information area in said extracted contour area when said one window is displayed in a scale-down state equal to or less than a predetermined size as one of window elements of said multi-window display.
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2. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising layout changing means for changing a layout of a data telecast window as said window when said plurality of image data is supplied from a plurality of picture sources including a data telecast,
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wherein said display changing means changes said display mode in accordance with a change of said layout.
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3. A multi-window display apparatus according to

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Claim 1, wherein said predetermined size is such a size that a character size in said character information area is equal to or less than a predetermined character size.

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4. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the multi-window display apparatus is applied to a data telecast receiving apparatus having a remote controller for controlling said data telecast.

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5. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said display changing means provides no display of character information in said contour area.

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6. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said display changing means changes said contour area to focus display of a color frame.

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7. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein when said display changing means changes said contour area to focus display of a color frame, said display changing means sets the focus display of the color frame to a same color as a color button provided in said remote controller.

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8. A multi-window display apparatus according to

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Claim 4, wherein said display changing means scales the character information area in said contour area up to a predetermined character size permitting discrimination of character information, in response to an operation
5 of said remote controller, and displays said character information area in the predetermined character size.

9. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein when a control element designated in
10 said data telecast is included in said character information area in said contour area displayed in the scale-up state, said control element can be controlled by said remote controller.

10. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said identifying means identifies said character information area while separating said character information area into a text element consisting of text information and a control element
15 consisting of a menu button,
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wherein said contour area extracting means separately extracts said contour areas for the respective elements, and

wherein said display changing means changes
25 display modes of the contour areas for the respective elements.

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14. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein when the control element designated in said data telecast is included in the character information area in said contour area displayed in the scale-up state for each said element, said control element can be controlled by said remote controller.

15. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said display changing means displays a character string or an icon by which the contents of the element can be visually discriminated, over the character information area in the contour area for each said element.

16. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said display changing means performs alpha blending of the character information area in said contour area and a multi-window display area to present alpha-blended display.

17. A multi-window display apparatus according to Claim 8 or 13, wherein when said character information area is displayed in the scale-up state, said display changing means effects stepwise scale-up transition of said character information area within a predetermined time.

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5 wherein said identifying means identifies said
character information area while separating said
character information area into a plurality of areas
for the respective elements and for each identical
element, and

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contour area extracting means for extracting a contour area of the character information area thus identified; and

display changing means for changing a display mode
of the character information area in said extracted

contour area when said data telecast window is displayed in a scale-down state equal to or less than a predetermined size as one of window elements of said multi-window display.

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20. A multi-window display method of combining windows corresponding to a plurality of input image data to present multi-window display thereof, comprising:

10 a step of identifying a character information area in a said window;

a step of extracting a contour area of the character information area thus identified; and

15 a step of changing a display mode of the character information area in said extracted contour area when said window is displayed in a scale-down state equal to or less than a predetermined size as one of window elements of said multi-window display.

20 21. A multi-window display method according to Claim 20, comprising a step of changing a layout of a data telecast window as said window when said plurality of image data is supplied from a plurality of picture sources including a data telecast,

25 wherein in said step of changing the display mode, said display mode is changed according to a change of said layout.

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26. A multi-window display method according to Claim 23, wherein in said step of changing the display mode, when said contour area is changed to focus display of a color frame, the focus display of the color frame is set to a same color as a color button provided in said remote controller.

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wherein in said step of changing the display mode,
the display mode of the contour area for each said

element is changed.

30. A multi-window display method according to Claim 29, wherein in said step of changing the display
5 mode, the contour area for each said element is changed to focus display of a color frame.

31. A multi-window display method according to Claim 29, which is applied to a data telecast receiving
10 apparatus having a remote controller for controlling a data telecast, wherein in said step of changing the display mode, when the contour area for each said element is changed to focus display of a color frame, the focus display of said color frame is set to a same
15 color as a color button provided in said remote controller.

32. A multi-window display method according to Claim 29, which is applied to a data telecast receiving
20 apparatus having a remote controller for controlling a data telecast, wherein in said step of changing the display mode, said character information area in the contour area for each said element is scaled up to a predetermined character size permitting discrimination
25 of said character information, in response to an operation of the remote controller, and is displayed in the predetermined character size.

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33. A multi-window display method according to Claim 32, wherein when a control element designated in said data telecast is included in the character information area in said contour area displayed in the scale-up state for each said element, said control element can be controlled by said remote controller.

34. A multi-window display method according to Claim 29, wherein in said step of changing the display mode, a character string or an icon, by which the contents of the element can be visually discriminated, is displayed over the character information area in the contour area for each said element.

35. A multi-window display method according to Claim 27, wherein in said step of changing the display mode, alpha blending of the character information area in said contour area and a multi-window display area is effected to present alpha-blended display.

36. A multi-window display method according to Claim 27 or 32, wherein in said step of changing the display mode, when said character information area is displayed in the scale-up state, stepwise scale-up transition is implemented within a predetermined time.

37. A multi-window display method according to

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Claim 29, wherein the method is applied to a data telecast receiving apparatus having a remote controller for controlling a data telecast,

5 wherein in said step of identifying, said character information area is identified while being separated into a plurality of areas for the respective elements and for each identical element, and

10 wherein in said step of changing the display mode, the display mode is changed by switching among contour areas of the plurality of separate character information areas for each said identical element in response to an operation of said remote controller.

15 38. A memory storing a program code for implementing the multi-window display method as set forth in Claim 20.

20 39. A program comprising a program code for implementing the multi-window display method as set forth in Claim 20.

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